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E.O. 12958, Sec. 3.4

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PA/HO Department of State  
E.O. 12958, as amended  
September 6, 2007

NND 969031

By CLH

Date 17 Dec 78

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ACTION: USINT ALGIERS

STATE

1. Secretary received Bousselham December 16 in accordance latter's request for opportunity make courtesy call. After preliminary exchange, during which Secretary complimented Bousselham on his appointment as head of "upgraded" Algerian Interests Section, Secretary asked Bousselham to ~~EMX~~ convey his best wishes to Foreign Minister Bouteflika, whom he regretted not having seen at this year's General Assembly session but hoped to see again. Secretary then expressed belief that US policy in Middle East had assumed more "even-handed" character since his meeting with Bouteflika a year ago. Noted that US policy in Middle East is now subject to criticism by Israelis as well as Arabs. Secretary ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ noted USG in handling Middle East problem sometimes felt like tennis ball: it gets hit from both sides of the net but game could not go on without it.

2. Bousselham, replying courteously to Secretary's

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S/S -

Theodore L. Eliot, Jr.

CLEARANCES:

NEA/UAR - Mr. Sterner

AF - Ambassador Moore

S - Mr. Taylor

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compliments on his appointment, stated he also wished convey Bouteflika's best wishes to Secretary. Referring to Secretary's comments on policy, he indicated that despite policy differences between Algeria and the US, GOA wished emphasize common interests of both countries as basis for cooperation. Bousselham noted US commercial activity with Algeria had increased over 100 per cent since 1967 break in diplomatic ties. He expressed confidence strengthening of Algerian-US economic relations would lay foundation for increased cooperation between both countries in future.

3. In reply to Secretary's comment that diplomatic relations should exist between countries despite their differences over policy, Bousselham stated that he, personally, saw his assignment to Washington as one step to be followed by others in expanding relations.

4. Secretary then inquired re Algerian policy with respect to acceptance so-called political refugees and

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exiles. Secretary indicated that he thought he understood policy but that he was puzzled by Algerian acceptance of certain individuals, such as Timothy Leary. Bousselham explained policy as one occasionally marked by mistakes which he attributed to "youthfulness." Stated that Algeria had been surprised by arrival of Leary who had literally "dropped from the skies." GOA had endeavored to fob ~~him~~ him off on Lebanese and Egyptians, both of whom, however, shunted him back to Algiers. Bousselham concluded by stating GOA fully recognizes "danger Leary poses for Algerian youth" and that he is being kept under surveillance to prevent any contact with Algerian youth.

5. Secretary assured Bousselham of Department's desire be of every assistance in facilitating his mission and expressed appreciation for courtesies and assistance given by GOA to Eagleton and members of USINT Algiers. In response to Secretary's query re his family, Bousselham

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indicated he would be returning to US with his wife and four children and declared that he thought his children would greatly benefit from their sojourn here.

6. Following meeting Boussselham expressed deep appreciation of Secretary's consideration in receiving him despite Secretary's heavy schedule. He obviously pleased with range of initial contacts he has made in Department and deeply impressed by Secretary's warm, friendly welcome and informal manner. Boussselham's own manner has been markedly outgoing and it was obvious after first few minutes with Secretary that he felt very much at ease.

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END

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